

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 AID-05 ACDA-07 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 EB-08

MCE-00 /075 W

-----014646 061636Z /45

R 051517Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7096

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

SECDEF WASHDC//ASD-ISA/DSAA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ 4/7-SA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3195

DAKAR ALSO FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ML, US

SUBJ: MALIAN REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) BAMA KO 2924, (B) STATE 158083

1. DURING CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER KISSIMA DOUKARA WITH DEFENSE ATTACHE LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD HUGHES AUGUST 3, MINISTER ASKED, WITHOUT MENTIONING AMBASSADOR SIMA'S APPROACH IN WASHINGTON, WHAT THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION WAS TO HIS EARLIER REQUEST FOR FMS ITEMS. HE WENT OVER MUCH OF SAME GROUND AS ON MARCH 21, REVIEWING HISTORY OF SUSPENSION CREDITS AND STRESSING DESIRABILITY OF RESUMPTION MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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2. AMBASSADOR SUMMARIZED DEVELOPMENTS IN AMBASSADOR SIMA'S MEETING WITH AF/W, OF WHICH MINISTER SEEMED ONLY GENERALLY AWARE, AND THEN ENUMERATED SOME OF FACTORS THE USG WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER: THE PRESIDENT'S NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY; THE ADMINISTRATION'S PARTICULAR PRUDENCE WITH REGARD TO

MILITARY AID TO AFRICA; THE DEOBLIGATION OF ALL REMAINING FMS CREDITS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO MALI, REQUIRING ENTIRELY NEW FUNDS; AND CERTAIN POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES CONCERNING WHICH MINISTER WAS WELL INFORMED.

3. DOUKARA INDICATED UNDERSTANDING BUT SOUGHT TO TURN ASIDE POINT RE POLITICAL ISSUES. HE REFERRED TO MALI'S APPOINTMENT OF SEPARATE AMBASSADOR FOR WASHINGTON TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND SAID THAT MALI'S DIFFERENT POLITICAL OUTLOOK ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. AMBASSADOR REJOINED THAT WE WERE NOT ASKING MALI TO CHANGE ITS TOTAL FOREIGN POLICY. MALI MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIONS IN MULTILATERAL ARENAS DID HAVE AN IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND, IN INSTANCES OF ISSUES OF DIRECT MAJOR CONCERN TO US AND OF MARGINAL OR NO INTEREST TO MALI, WE DID EXPECT MALI TO TAKE OUR INTERESTS SERIOUSLY INTO ACCOUNT.

5. CONCERNING ITEMS DESIRED, DOUKARA WAS SOMEWHAT IMPRECISE BUT BASICALLY HE WANTED TRAINING, INCLUDING PILOT TRAINING, IN THE UNITED STATES (WE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLAINED CONNECTION BETWEEN PILOT TRAINING AND SALE OF AIRCRAFT), AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LABORATORY, AND PARACHUTES (NUMBER UNSPECIFIED). HE COMMENTED THAT IT HAD BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE MALIANS HAD RECEIVED ANY TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT BENEFICIAL ACTIVITY BEGUN AGAIN. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LABORATORY WITHOUT ANY FOLLOW-ON MIGHT NOT BE WORTHWHILE. DOUKARA AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF A C-130, SAYING THAT A USED ONE WOULD CUT THE COST, BUT WE INDICATED THAT THAT WAS WAY OUT OF RANGE OF CONSIDERATION.

6. COLONEL HUGHES EXPLAINED THAT, ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON WAS STUDYING QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL, FROM BUREAUCRATIC STANDPOINT NOTHING WOULD REALLY MOVE UNTIL MALI PRESENTED A FORMAL REQUEST WITH PRECISE DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS AND QUANTITIES SOUGHT. WE CAREFULLY MADE CLEAR THAT SUBMISSION SUCH A LIST DID NOT AT ALL GUARANTEE FAVORABLE OUTCOME BUT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FIRST STEP TO ACTIVATE THE SYSTEM.

7. DOUKARA SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT HIS STAFF TO
DRAW UP A "REASONABLE" REQUEST AND THAT HE WOULD
APPRECIATE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER-
WARD. WE MADE NO COMMITMENTS.
BYRNE

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